



# Interim Forest Management Plan

Draft Revision Date 3/27/2013

## Property Identifiers

Property Name and Designation: **Scattered Forest State Lands – Wildlife properties within the Northern Highland American Legion State Forest boundary**

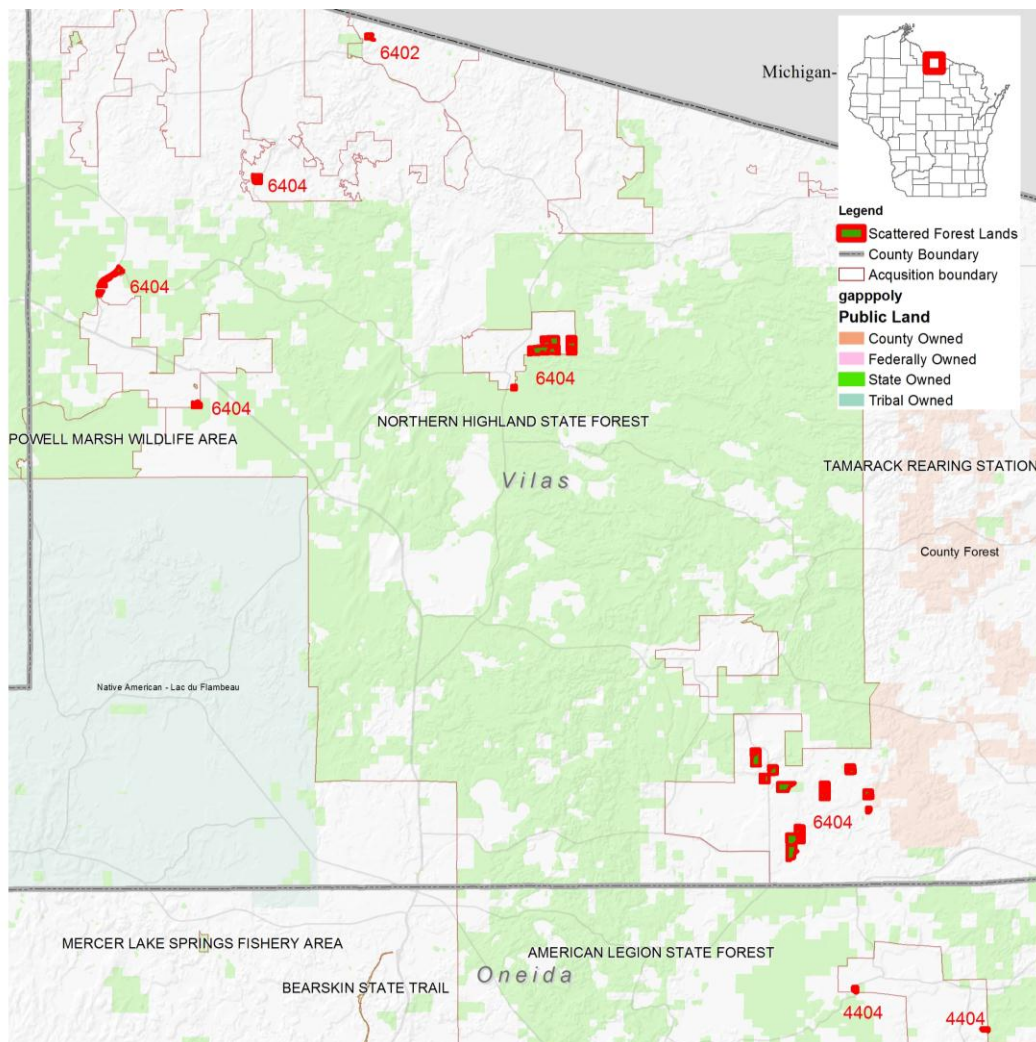
County: **Oneida, Vilas**

Property Acreage: **989**

Forestry Property Code: **4404, 6402, & 6404**

Master Plan Date: **None** (NHLSF Master Plan completed in Oct 2005)

## Part 1: Property Assessment



\*Parcels in Red depict the properties covered by this interim forest plan



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The following items should be considered during the property assessment. Not all sections may be relevant for all properties.

## General Property Description

The Scattered Forest Lands program included in this plan are comprised of stand-alone parcels that are maintained by the Bureau of Wildlife Management. These properties were acquired over time via donation and purchase, to protect/preserve unique ecologically important fish and wildlife values but were removed from the NHAL State Forest by the 1982 and 2005 master plans. State ownership of these lands allows forestry and wildlife habitat management as well as public hunting. In general, these properties will adhere to the Northern Highland American Legion State Forest Master Plan for adjacent state forest land.

- **Landscape and regional context:** The majority of the scattered forest lands contained in this plan are within the Northern Highland Ecological Landscape on the following Land Type Associations (LTA): Vilas-Oneida Outwash Plains (212Xb03), Vilas-Oneida Sandy Hills (212Xb02), and Northern Highland Outwash Plains (212Xb01). Two Vilas county scattered forest properties are located within the Winegar Moraines LTA (212Jc02) of the North Central Forest Landscape.

The Wisconsin Wildlife Action Plan lists Conservation Opportunity Areas throughout the state. There are 3 different COA's that impact certain properties within this plan: Manitowish Powell Peatlands, Trout Lake Pines, and Winegar Moraine-Moose Creek COA's

- **History of land use and past management:** When the Northern Highland American Legion State Forest (NHAL) went through its 1982 Master plan update a majority of these parcels were pulled from State Forest Designation and renamed as Miscellaneous Wildlife Properties. The reason for this was to make these parcels available for potential trades to benefit local towns. These scattered parcels are located near urban areas such as the town of St Germain. The idea was to be able to acquire larger tracts within the NHAL using these as trade if such an opportunity presents itself..

## Site Specifics

- **Current forest types, size classes and successional stages:** This plan covers 989 acres of which 71 are Non-Forested/Non-Commercial acres (lakes, streams, marshes, upland grasses, recreational, etc.)

The 918 acres of Forested habitat breaks down into the following:

Forest Type Description	Stands	Acres	Percent of Forested Acres	Percent of Recon Acres
ASPEN	8	303	33 %	31 %
WHITE BIRCH	3	40	4 %	4 %
FIR SPRUCE-*OLD CODE, RECODE	1	4	0 %	0 %
HEMLOCK	1	10	1 %	1 %
NORTHERN HARDWOODS	5	208	23 %	21 %
OAK	3	146	16 %	15 %
JACK PINE	1	1	0 %	0 %
RED PINE	5	129	14 %	13 %
WHITE PINE	1	11	1 %	1 %
BLACK SPRUCE	6	66	7 %	7 %
Total:	34	918	99 %	93 %



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- **State Natural Area designations:** There are no State Natural Area designations on these scattered forest properties.
- **High Value Conservation Forests (HCVF) or other resources/natural community types limited in the landscape:** There are no approved or draft HCVF's for these parcels
- **Biotic Inventory status:** None
- **Deferral/consultation area designations (refer to the following website):** None
- **Rare species:** Rare species and high-quality examples of native communities have been documented on/or near a few of the parcels contained within this plan. NHI screening will be conducted prior to all future management activities.
- **Invasive species:** if detected on state lands, invasive exotic plants will be controlled using appropriate and effective methods as approved by state BMP's while also taking consideration of any sensitive areas.
- **Soils:** Due to the scattered nature of these properties, soil types are quite variable. The following are common soils for the dry-dry/mesic sites typical for these properties: Rubicon sand, Vilas loamy sand, Sayner loamy sand, Padus-Pence Sandy loams, Padus loams, Loxley and Dawson Peat.

## Cultural and Recreational Considerations

- **Cultural and archeological sites (including tribal sites):** The Vilas County Archaeological and Historical Sites map (WDNR, 2012) indicates some Historical sites on or near these properties. All known sites are to be protected during forest management operations.
- **Recreational Considerations:** Hunting and Fishing and other recreation are allowed on these properties but not all parcels have public access. For those parcels that have parking lots and boat landings, timber sales will consider recreational and aesthetic factors during management.

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## Part 2: IFMP Components

### Management Objectives (Outline primary forest management objectives):

- Sustainably manage these scattered areas
- Manage each stand after consultation with the property manager to determine specific objectives for the particular area. Site objectives will complement the Northern Highland American Legion State Forest Master Plan (Approved October 2005).
- Incorporate landscape scale opportunities into management decisions to include:
  - protecting kettle lakes
  - restoring red and white pine types
  - restoring hemlock-hardwood forests
  - improving forest composition and structure
  - protecting rare and endangered species and habitats
- Naturally regenerate stands whenever possible
- Passive management will be considered for wet and remote stands as deemed necessary

**Property Prescriptions** (Identify specific and pertinent prescriptions by area or forest type, including passive management areas, extended rotation, and other information that will help achieve the objectives):



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All forest management prescriptions will follow the forest management principles outlined in the "Wisconsin Forest Management Guidelines" and the "Silviculture Handbook" for those stands where continuation of the forested habitat type is the goal.

Silvicultural systems to be applied include:

- Intermediate thinning on even-aged managed species including but not limited to red and white pine, black spruce, tamarack, oak and red maple.
- Manage aspen on an even-aged basis, using a coppice with standards silvicultural system taking age classes, structural and patch size diversity into account.
- Manage jack pine on an even-aged basis, using a clear cut silvicultural system followed by site preparation and planting as needed.
- Manage black spruce and tamarack on both even-aged and all-aged silvicultural systems depending on site quality. Even-aged systems will utilize a strip clear cut method in large stands and a seed tree system in small stands. All-aged systems will utilize group selection or single tree selection with canopy gaps.
- Manage red oak on an even-aged basis using the updated oak management silvicultural handbook guidelines, with an extended rotation on dry- mesic/mesic sites, using the 2 or 3 step shelterwood regeneration method.
- Manage red and white pine stands on an extended rotation, using selective harvests to maintain health of pines and to maintain species diversity and structural diversity, regenerating either by group selection, shelterwood or by clear cut and replanting. Retention of large pines during any thinning or regeneration stages will improve structural and age diversity for wildlife within the stand.
- Manage northern hardwood on an all-aged basis, creating all age classes through the installation of canopy gaps and thinning.
- Passive management in cedar and hemlock stands. Cedar and Hemlock will be favored as retention trees in mixed stands wherever possible.
- Will consider salvage sales for stands subjected to storm or disease events on a case by case basis as approved by Resource Managers.

Approvals:

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Regional Ecologist Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Forester Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Property Manager Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Area/Team Supervisor Date